



roundabout



Parish Magazine of St. Augustine's Church, Southborough Lane with St. Luke's Church, Bromley Common

50p

Issue 517 November 2020

We Will Remember Them

Remembrance Sunday this year will have a hugely different feel to it, because of all the restrictions in place, yet that does not mean we should forget this year and roll it over to next, as we have done with so many other things in our lives. Rather the importance of remembrance I believe is more keenly felt as we mourn and grieve those whose life has been lost on the front line in fighting Covid-19. Our NHS staff have faced and continue to face acute difficulty in treating this deadly virus and sadly the roll of honour has steadily grown with their names. Therefore, as we remember those who gave their lives for our freedom, it is right and proper that we should also remember those who have given their lives in the fighting of this pandemic.

This virus as we know, does not discriminate in its victims and many families from all backgrounds up and down this country have faced the sadness of a loved one dying. In the past families have found solace in grieving together at a funeral, yet this has by and large been curtailed because of the restriction in numbers allowed to attend. This I know has caused much pain. When my father died eight years ago many people were able to attend his funeral. I found great strength from talking with family and friends about his life and learning a few things I never knew about him. This has been denied to many families and adds to the grief as they can not express to one another the common experiences that they shared with the loved one that has died.



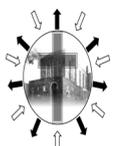
Therefore, on Sunday 8 November at 11am let us fall silent as a nation holding before God, all those who have kept us safe not just in wars gone by, but also those who give their lives today on the battlefields of this pandemic.

The Words from Laurence Binyon's poem are true today as they have ever been.

*They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them.
We will remember them.*

Yours in Christ

Revd Steve Spencer -Vicar



As members of St. Augustine's with St Luke's, we seek to follow Jesus' command—to share God's love with our community.



APCM

Our Annual Parochial Church Meeting (APCM) took place on Saturday 17 October. In previous years this meeting has been followed by a church family lunch and workshops in the afternoon on different areas of church life. However, this year it was decided to hold our annual meeting on Zoom because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Despite the different arrangements, the meeting went well. The Annual Parochial Church Meeting looks back over the previous year with reports on the fabric and finances of the parish, a report from the vicar and various other reports from church groups at St Augustine's and St Luke's. The meeting should have taken place earlier in the year but was delayed because of the lockdown. Most of the reports were therefore focussed on 2019 but they reflected the events of 2020 as well. It was good to be reminded of the highlights of 2019, such as our Christmas services, and we look forward to the time when church services and parish activities can resume normally again.



The annual meeting is the time when churchwardens and Parochial Church Council (PCC) members are elected to serve in the coming year. This year we elected two new churchwardens, Hilary Chittock and Andrew Gurney and three new PCC members. Steve Spencer paid tribute to the hard work and dedication of those who have stepped down from these roles; we are very grateful for the contribution that they have made to the life of the parish during their time of office. Steve and the outgoing churchwardens also expressed their thanks to many others in the parish who have undertaken different voluntary roles; without them, we could not maintain our churches and halls in good working order and our parish activities would not happen. Steve gave particular thanks to the Social Committee for the wonderful meals and fellowship that they have provided over many years.



Johanna Gurney

Now For a Little Bit of Encouragement

About three months ago, the Bible Reading Fellowship, in conjunction with Anna Chaplaincy, published a series of five 'Carers' Guides' booklets designed to assist the staff of care homes during lockdown. We purchased sets of these and gave them to the two care homes in which we were involved in taking monthly Services. They were well received and said to be helpful.

One of the booklets was 'How to worship with a group of residents'. At the beginning of September I received a letter from the Social Activities leader at Ashglade Residential Home in Southborough Lane in which she said: "We had our first Church Service on Friday 21 August. It was a short one as I was a bit nervous but it went really well. My friend had managed to get the music to the two songs onto my phone so we could have music and I printed out the words for the residents. The residents said that they really enjoyed it and I am hoping to do a longer one next week." This is very encouraging news and I look forward to hearing how the subsequent Service went. So far I have not heard any further news from Queen Elizabeth House or from a link to the local Mission Care homes via the Coppice Community Church, but hopefully the booklets were able to help them also.



Christine Regas.

The Glorious Dead

On November 11 this year it will be 100 years since the unveiling of the stone Cenotaph in Whitehall in London. The original one was a temporary wooden structure designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens. It was erected for a Victory Parade in July 1918, following the end of the First World War. This war produced casualties on a previously unseen scale. Over 1.1 million men from the British Empire were killed. In its aftermath, thousands of war memorials were built across Britain and the Empire and on the former battlefields. The war had a profound effect on Sir Edwin Lutyens and he became one of the most prominent designers of them.



The Cenotaph quickly captured the public imagination. Repatriation of the dead had been forbidden since the early days of the war, so the Cenotaph came to represent the absent dead and served as a substitute for a tomb. Beginning almost immediately after the Victory Parade and continuing for days afterwards, members of the public began laying flowers and wreaths around the Cenotaph's base.

Suggestions that the temporary cenotaph be re-built as a permanent structure began almost immediately, coming from members of the public and national newspapers. The new design of the Cenotaph, made entirely from Portland stone, is a pylon on a rectangular plan, with gradually diminishing tiers, culminating in a sculpted tomb chest (the empty tomb) on which is placed a laurel wreath. It is austere, containing very little decoration. At each end is a laurel wreath and on the sides is the inscription THE GLORIOUS DEAD. The only other inscription is the dates of the World Wars in Roman numerals. This permanent structure is designated the United Kingdom's official national war memorial.

Sue Goodger.

Here Comes the Bride



I was thrilled when my cousin announced that he was getting married. I had met various girl friends over the years but now at nearly 70 he had met 'the one'. He and Mary had been together for a few years and I had enjoyed seeing them together. Unfortunately they were caught up in the Covid restrictions. At the last minute they had to cancel the reception and were limited to 15 guests.

I had spent a lot of time wondering what to wear. I needn't have worried. There was not a hat or even a flower to be seen. Some guests had come on their bikes and one couple came on a motorbike and sat in their 'leathers'.

The service was in a Catholic church which was enormous. It was three times the size of St. Augustine's. It was however the most special service I have ever been to. The couple, some family and friends, an inspiring priest made the service truly intimate, full of meaning and love.

I had been asked to read at the service and I would like to share the reading with you. It is a version of Isaiah Chapter 32 verse 2.

Each will be like a hiding place from the wind, a refuge from the storm, like streams of water in a dry place, like the shade of a great rock in a weary land. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness, and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. The effect of righteousness will be peace, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places.

Ann Hanrahan

Macmillan Coffee Morning



When I first received the email reminding me that I had agreed to host a Macmillan Coffee Morning again this year, I had no idea how I would manage it with the lockdown in place. The email suggested I host a virtual one on Zoom. As I'm not good at using Zoom and so many of my friends don't use the internet I rejected this idea. Instead I had a small series of get-togethers in my garden and friends' gardens over a two week period. I started early in September when the weather was good and I'm so glad I did, as the weather on the allotted day was really cold and wet.

It was amazingly successful this year, in spite of the rule of six being introduced. People were very generous, especially two members of our church who gave large donations. My final total was £1895 (with an additional £365 to be claimed back in gift aid). Such a fantastic total which is needed more than ever this year.

Thank you so much for your generosity and support. It has been overwhelming. It was lovely to be able to get friends together for a chat in these unusual times.

Sue Goodger

Our Knitted Blankets – Update

I have now taken another donation of blankets to the church in Lee that runs a foodbank delivery service on behalf of AFRIL. This time I took seven single blankets and twelve baby blankets. Angela, the churchwarden who was organising the bags for delivery was so thrilled to receive more. She told me that the families were really pleased with the beautiful blankets and were very grateful. They deliver to 30 families every week and have about 70 families on their books. They also provide advocacy and advice. You can find out more on their church website www.goodpeter.org.uk



Last week I heard of another connection with the Church of the Good Shepherd in Lee. Sheila Humphrey rang me to say that she was so pleased that we are sending our blankets there. It was her church when she was growing up and she used to go to the Youth Club there - in fact that was where she met her husband Richard. How lovely.

As the weather gets colder I am picking up my knitting again, as I'm sure many of you are too. So anything you would like to send to Tanya or me, will go to a needy family, be it knitted squares or completed baby blankets, or anything else you fancy knitting. I still have our blankets for Africa in storage too.

Sue Goodger

Jane, Jaycee and Jayden Crampin

Jaycee, now 16, and Jayden, 14, are the reason that Jane became a member of our community at St Augustine's. When they were tiny, Jane popped into the church office to enquire about baptism and met Kathy, our then Parish Administrator. They chatted for a bit and then the vicar Katrina, came in and they chatted some more. In the following weeks she met Alison and Nickie and Jane says it was this friendly welcome that made her feel a member of our church community straight away.

A lifelong resident of Bromley, Jane and her sister Sally were actually born in Tottenham, which accounts for the family allegiance to Spurs. After school at Raglan Road and Elmfield School, Jane started work at a jeweller's in Bromley, who supported her in studying for, and passing, the exams of the National Association of Goldsmiths. When Bromley High Street was re-developed Jane decided to change tack. A job came up at St George's School, Bickley and she applied for it. Brian Kendall was the Head Teacher at the time and Jane spent ten happy years there. She has since done a variety of jobs under her own steam, which leaves her time to spend with the family.



Jaycee and Jayden are studying at Ravensbourne School. They have both negotiated the difficulties of schoolwork during lockdown with support from Jane's Mum and Dad, who are celebrating 63 years of marriage this year. Football is a passion for the whole family, and both children count GCSE Sports Studies as their favourite subject.

When Jane became a member of the 10 am after service coffee rota, she was paired with Ann Wanniaratchy, who shared Jane's love of gardening. In her spare time, Jane enjoys sewing, cake decorating which provides an opportunity to show her artistic talents, and meeting up with friends which is what she really looks forward to.

Mary Plummer

Autumn Fires by Robert Louis Stevenson

In the other gardens
And all up the vale,
From the autumn bonfires
See the smoke trail!

Pleasant summer over
And all the summer flowers,
The red fire blazes,
The grey smoke towers.

Sing a song of seasons!
Something bright in all!
Flowers in the summer,
Fires in the fall!



Picture: Jacky Skinner

The Broken Plate

Are you a morning person or a night owl? Me, I'm a permanently exhausted pigeon! A Little Girl I Know is more of an evening person. When it comes to bedtime, she will tell me she's not tired. Once in bed she is fast asleep within minutes and sleeps through until her alarm sounds the following morning. Maybe she was tired after all.

I on the other hand prefer to get up, do what I need to do, then relax with my colouring or a good book before bed. Since returning to work at the end of last year I am always clock watching; my household tasks spread throughout the day now.



A few nights ago, I was unloading the dishwasher, a gadget I thank God for on a regular basis. A dinner plate slipped through my hands onto the tiled floor breaking into a number of pieces. A Little Girl I Know heard the noise and came out to the kitchen to find out what had happened. I moved away from the broken pieces and stretched out my arms. A Little Girl I Know came and gave me a hug. You know the type I mean - the one that tops you up, just what you needed at the time.



After a few precious moments I asked her to get the dustpan and brush and leave me to tidy away the broken pieces. I recalled buying the set over twenty-five years ago for my first flat. I thought of times when family and friends had sat around our table and had eaten with us, some sadly no longer with us. I cried a silent tear deep in my heart for them. As I dealt with the broken pieces, I gave thanks that we have a number of spare plates in the same design just waiting to be used.

That night when A Little Girl I Know went to bed she asked me if I was upset about the plate. I told her that breaking plates was part of life. I told her that we are broken as people because we often do the wrong thing. I told her that God is the Super Glue that puts us back together. She said that it made her think of her Great-Grandma who would often repair broken things when I was young so that they could be used again and again. Unfortunately, it is not a skill that she passed onto me; her eye for detail, matching things up so they looked like new. So clever.

Thank you, God, that you are the Super Glue in our lives holding us and putting us back together day by day when we need it.

We have a

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Many thanks to everyone who so generously sponsored me on the Solo Great South Run Challenge. More than £1,250 has been donated for the Mothers' Union. I completed more than 25 runs covering nearly 140 miles in 48 days, ending on Sunday 18 October with the 10 mile run, taking 1 hr 40 mins. There will be a medal in the post!

Liz Carter

Congratulations to **Mary and Martin Plummer** who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 17 October. They received many cards and bouquets of flowers and their children gave them a framed photograph of the whole family.



Congratulations to:

Eleanor Bruce, granddaughter of **John and Anita Bruce**, who gained 4A*s at A Level. She is going to St. Hilda's College, Oxford University to read Experimental Psychology.



Congratulations to **Jacky Skinner** who has had many of her photos printed in the News Shopper this year. Her latest one, on the left, was this one of the poppies in a tree in Orpington High Street for Remembrance Day.



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As members of St Augustine's with St Luke's, we seek to follow Jesus' command – to share God's love with our community.

You are welcome to worship with us:

- on Sunday mornings at 10 am via Zoom and phone.
- on Wednesday mornings 11.30 via Zoom and phone.

For details of how to join ring 020 8467 1351

Our church office is closed until further notice and normal church activities and room bookings are suspended. For details about our church life please see the website: www.st-augustines.org.uk.

Our Vicar Steve Spencer can be contacted at revsteve.spencer@btinternet.com

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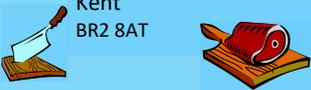
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